Dear Editor,

We read the publication on “Neurocysticercosis (NCC) and HIV Infection: what can we learn from the published literature?” with great interest. Herrera Vazquez et al. concluded that “Our review did not reveal clear interactions between HIV and NCC. This may be partially due to the small number of cases and reliance on published research.” We would like to share ideas on this publication. First, Herrera Vazquez et al. mentioned that they reviewed the literature and could recruit only 40 cases of patients co-infected with NCC and HIV. In fact, the two conditions are not extremely uncommon in tropical countries and co-infection is sporadically seen. In a recent report from Tanzania, among 170 local villagers with seropositive HIV, NCC was found in three patients. In fact, there is another interesting publication from Brazil showing that "Conditions related to the nervous system were the most commonly associated causes of death when NCC was mentioned as an underlying cause, and HIV/AIDS was the main underlying cause when NCC was an associated cause." Regarding the clinical manifestation, asymptomatic NCC is not uncommon among HIV infected cases. Some patients may have only subcutaneous parasitic cysts as the first presentation before further diagnosis of NCC.

References


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